

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A support device for containers of liquids in extracorporeal blood treatment machines, or in renal failure treatment machines, comprising:

[[(-)] a base body; and

[[(-)] a plurality of support element elements associated to the base body, ~~characterized in that the~~ each support element being is displaceable with respect to the base body between at least one operative loading position, corresponding or close to a position of maximum extraction of the support element from the base body, and an operative work condition, corresponding or close to a position of minimum extraction of the support element from the base body;

stop means for selectively blocking a relative position of each support element with respect to the base body, at least in the operative loading position or in the operative work position; and

a control device controlling the stop means to enable contemporary extraction of a predetermined number of supports.

2. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element is slidable between the operative loading position and the operative work position along a movement direction.

3. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the movement direction lies in an essentially horizontal plane when the support device is operating.

4. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element is mobile between the operative loading position and the operative work position by means of at least a translating or rotary displacement.

5. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 2, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element comprises at least one elongate arm which is slidable in a guide of the base body in order to displace between the operative loading position and the operative work position.

6. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element comprises two elongate arms which are slidable in guides of the base body in order to displace between the operative loading position and the operative work position.

7. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element comprises means for supporting a container.

8. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the means for supporting comprise at least one body which is removably constrainable to the support element for supporting ~~the~~ said container.

9. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the body is intended for directly supporting ~~the~~ said container.

10. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the body which is constrainable to the support element exhibits a manual transport organ and at least one support hook for the said container.

11. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the manual transport organ is a handle.

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the body comprises at least two support hooks for receiving the said container.

13. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the body constrainable to the support element comprises a rod which bears the manual transport organ and the said at least one support hook, the support element exhibiting supports for receiving and engaging the rod.

14. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the operative loading position corresponds or is close to a position of maximum extraction of the support element from the base body, the operative work position corresponding or being close to a position of minimum extraction of the support element from the base body.

15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element is provided with at least one mechanical endrun stop for the operative loading position.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the mechanical endrun stop is defined by a groove, for example located on the said elongate arm.

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element is provided with at least one further mechanical endrun stop for the operative work position.

18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 17, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the further mechanical endrun stop is defined by a groove, for example located on an elongate arm.

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising at least one position sensor, associated to the base body, for detecting at least the operative work position of the support element.

20. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 19, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the position sensor is a Hall sensor.

21. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that it comprises~~ further comprising additional sensors for weighing a container associated to the support device.

22. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 21, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensors for weighing comprise at least one measuring balance .

23. The device of claim 22, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sensors for weighing further comprise a control balance.

24. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the support element further comprises a manoeuvring handle for enabling a manual displacement between the operative work position and the operative loading position, and vice versa.

25. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein a loading of a container is performed only in the operative loading position of the support element.

26. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 1, ~~characterized in that it further comprises~~ wherein said stop means ~~for selectively blocking blocks~~ a relative position of the support element with respect to the base body, ~~at least in the operative loading position and/or~~ and in the operative work position.

27. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 26 ~~1, characterized in that~~ wherein the stop means are normally active for blocking the support element in a retracted position thereof.

28. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 27, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the stop means are operated for enabling a contemporary extraction only of a predetermined number of support elements.

29. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 20, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the said balance for weighing is associable to a machine control unit, which is provided with a CPU ~~which receives~~ configured to receive a signal proportional to a weight provided by the balance for weighing; ~~the said CPU being able~~ configured to

validate ~~the~~ said signal relating to the weight only when the support element is in the operative work position.

30-36. (Canceled)

37. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the stop means are normally active for blocking the support element in correspondence of the operative work condition where the support element is in a retracted position.

38. (New) The device of claim 1 wherein the control device is of the type selected in the group comprising: an analog control device or a digital control device.

39. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the predetermined number is one, and wherein the control device controls the stop means to enable extraction of a single support at a time, automatically blocking the other support elements in the operative work condition where the support element is in the retracted position.

40. (New) The device of claim 39, wherein control device controls the stop means to enable another or the same support to be extracted once more, when the extracted support is returned to the operative work condition.